Billanook Primary School
DOGS AT BILLANOOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs attending our school grounds.

SCOPE

This policy only applies to pet and stray dogs on school grounds. For policy information on wellbeing and engagement animals, refer to the department's Wellbeing and Engagement Animals policy on PAL.

POLICY

Definitions

A **pet dog** relates to any dog that is privately owned in the community for companionate reasons, rather than as a support function that requires specific skills or training.

A **stray dog** is any dog that is not accompanied by their owner.

Wellbeing dogs

For information on Wellbeing and Engagement animals, please refer to the Wellbeing and Engagement Animal policy on PAL (Policy Advisory Library).

Pet dogs

Whilst Billanook Primary School understands that many families in our school community keep dogs as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, we have in place a number of rules that we expect all families to follow if they wish to bring their pet dog onto school grounds.

Conditions of entry;

- Keep dogs leashed at all times within the school grounds
- Keep pets away from sandpits, the kitchen garden area, line up spots, classrooms and our Welfare dog, Bella.
- responsibly clean up after your pet

Billanook Primary School is not a public place, and our principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Families that bring dogs to school that exhibit signs of aggressive behaviour, bark, or jump may be asked to remove the dog from school premises.

The Principal has the authority to prohibit certain dogs from school grounds or modify this policy to ensure the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and members of our school community at any time.

Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the school office. School staff will contact municipal authorities and/or Victoria Police for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Linked in staff handbook/manual
- Reminders in our school newsletter where appropriate
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Duty of Care Policy
- Visitors Policy
- Wellbeing and Engagement Animals on PAL

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2025
Consultation	School Council – May 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2028